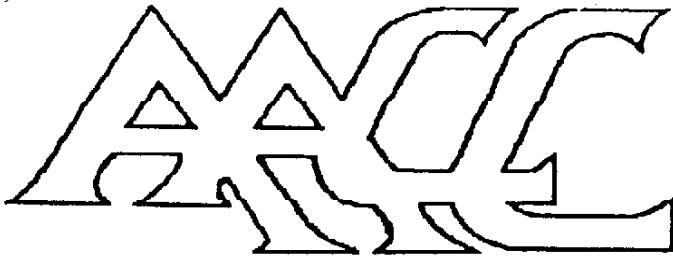


4



AIRPORT AREA COMPUTER CLUB  
POST OFFICE BOX 710  
CORAOPOLIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15108

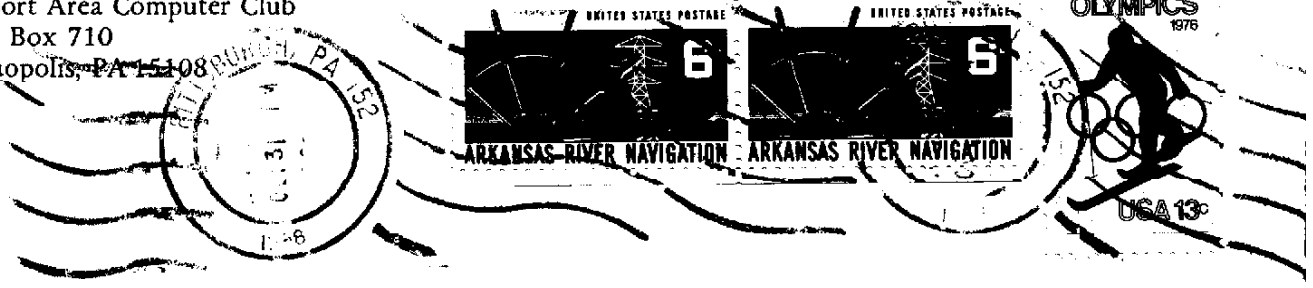
Next meeting: 6:30 PM Sunday November 6, 1988 at the John Jay building,  
Room 22, at Robert Morris College. Ask the guard for directions.

November 1988

Newsletter

Vol VI No 8

Airport Area Computer Club  
P.O. Box 710  
Coraopolis, PA 15108

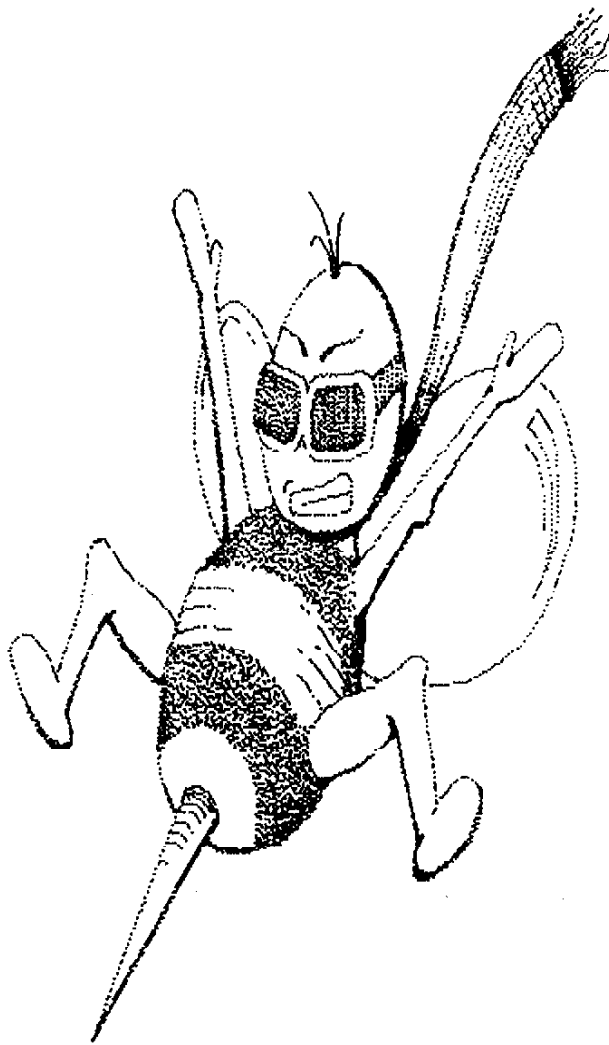


DALLAS TI COMPUTER GROUP  
P.O. BOX 29863  
DALLAS, TX 75229

(Continued from inside)

Unfortunately there will not be a lot of public domain software to demo this month. We will have a guest who will show four programs which he has written, and he intends to place two in public domain at this meeting. Mr. Dale Kloes of Gibsonia found us through Computer Shopper, and asked about how to place these programs into distribution. He has two which he wants to enter into ShareWare. It will be quite interesting to see his work, and I intend to help him get them to other groups around the country.

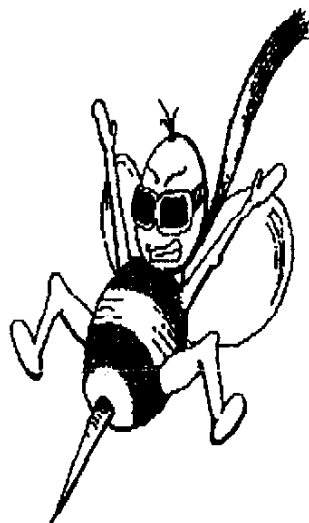
Finally, I have received another issue of Genial Traveler's disk-a-zine, and I will show a few programs from the latest issue. This is the issue in which he promised games. You may be surprised to find that there are no arcade stype games. Instead these take some thought. There is an interesting listing of all available TI cartridges, placed into categories according to which are still available, and which have apparently gone out of distribution. For those who have not seen the disk-a-zine, you may find it well worth subscribing.



## Kamikaze Bee

*drawn, scanned, & cleaned by  
Tim Tedder*

*Print large bee with 50% reduction  
in ImageWriter for nice picture.*



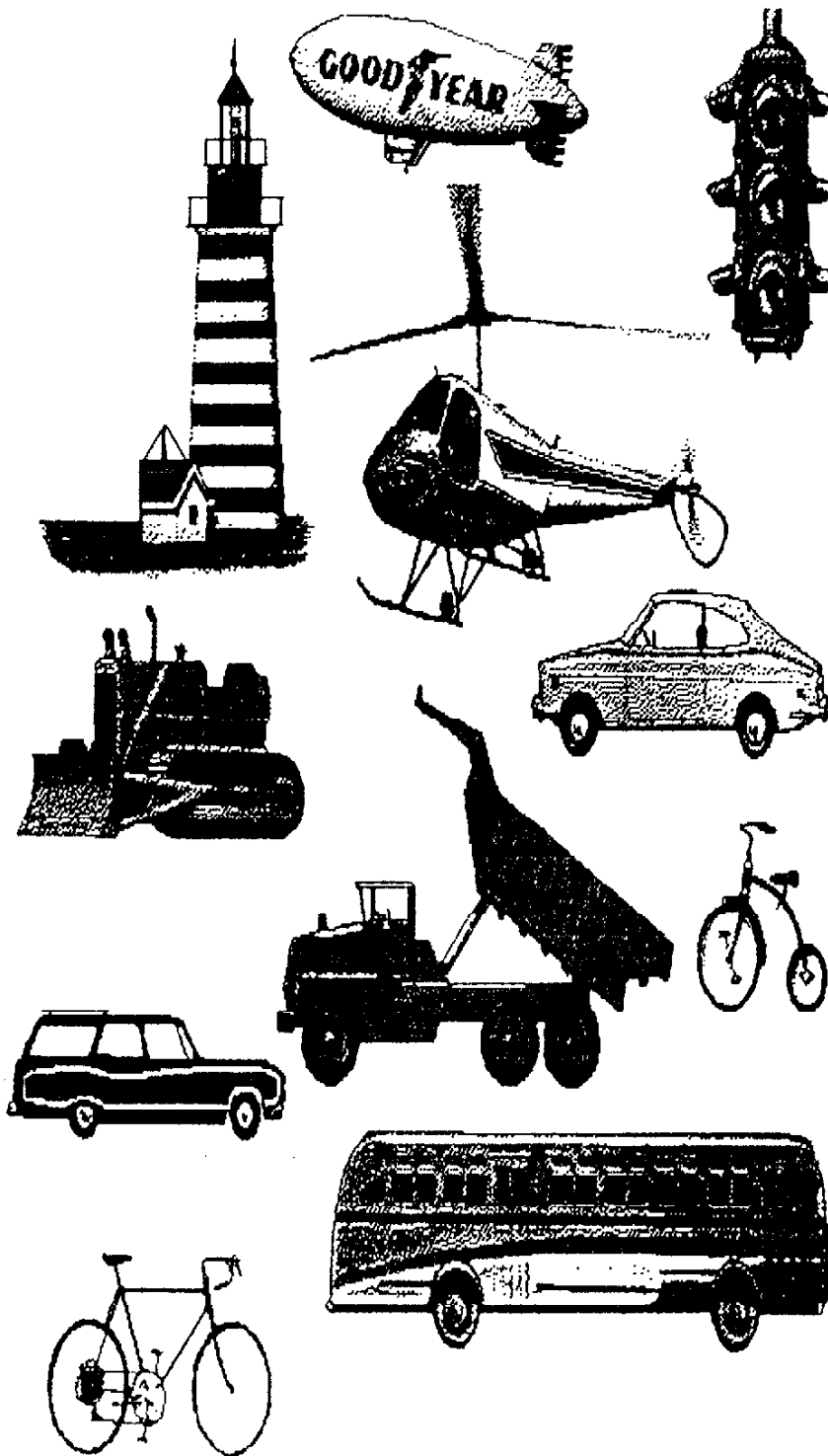
The bees to the left are in high resolution and look O.K. to me, although you now know that they are actually a bit squeezed in this view.

Author Hoddie notes that a MacPaint picture can be as large as 51K, but rarely exceed 20 K. They appear as DIS/FIX 128 files for our machine. Genial Computerware which distributes MacFlix, also has a program called PC-Transfer, which permits us to move text files between the TI-99/4A and a PC. A conversion file on MacFlix will move MacPaint files back and forth between PC and TI disks, rather than just text files.

The instructions note that you can view a TI-Artist picture saved from a MacFlix file, but you must omit the P extension. I haven't tried any of this, so I cannot comment. But it is part of the rather complete documentation which comes with the disks...disks? The program includes a sample disk of Macintosh pictures for you to try - the prints are from this sample disk.

Because you must have the picture name in order to load it, the program includes a disk catalog option so that you do not have to exit the program to see what is the exact name of the picture you wish to load. Great!

Now all I have to do is find my copy of PC-Transfer and move some of my IBM pics over to the 99!

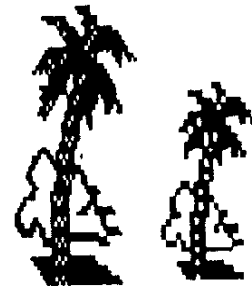


when compressed. If you had not seen the normal perspective on these pictures, they would probably not look as badly distorted.

The two trees immediately below are in low resolution:

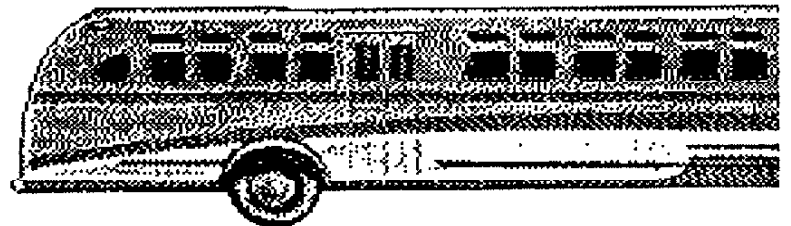
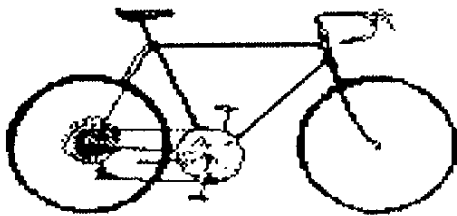
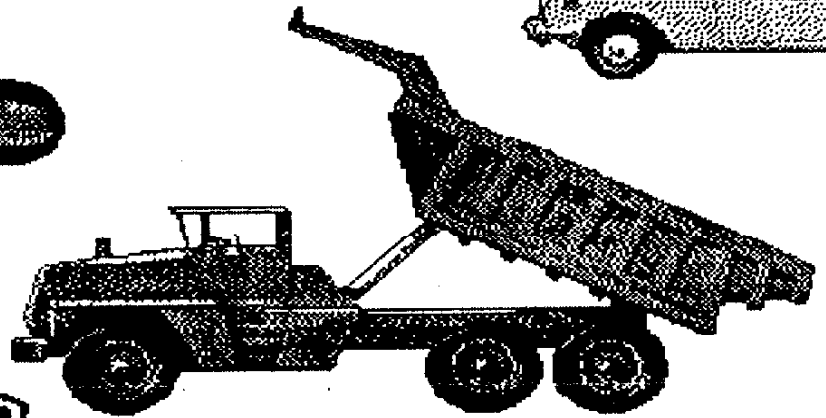
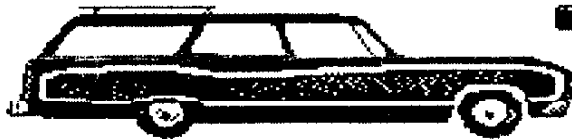
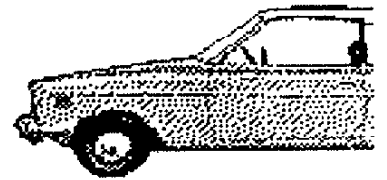
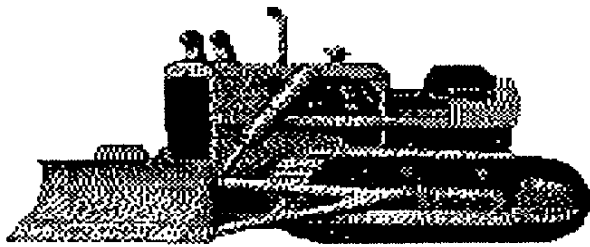
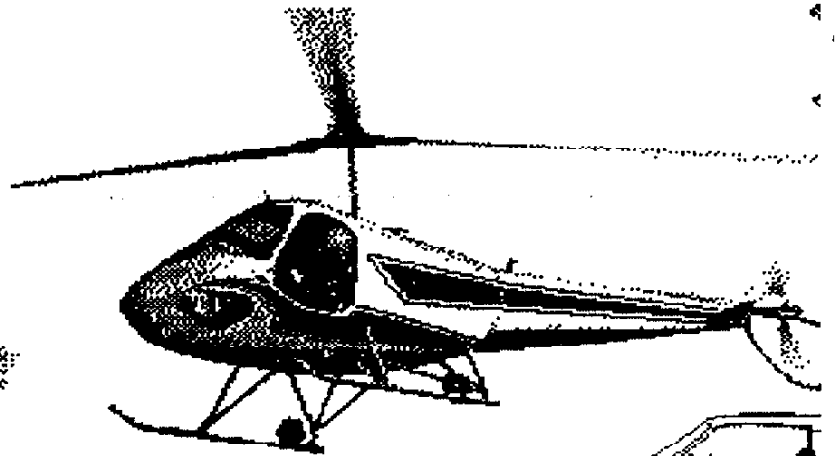


They are fairly typical of drawings done on the Apple II rather than the Macintosh. But note below when they are printed in high resolution the look better (at least to me, they do):



Note that they are not shrunk in the vertical dimension, horizontally.

Another feature of the MacFlix program permits you to invert the pictures. Now my first guess was that this feature would produce an upside down picture. But no, it reverses black and white. I didn't try to print any inverted picture, but I am sure you understand what I mean. I thought it would overwork the printer to print so much solid background.



**Transportation**

Ken Crowe

Apple-Dayton

music. That instrument preceeded the piano. Most of the pieces are played on the piano today. The pianoforte had a smaller keyboard, and didn't strike the same strings for sound as today's piano. For the life of me I cannot remember exactly what was inside the pianoforte - I did know when I was a music major back in early college days. Bruce Harrison did the programming and Dolores Werths transcribed the sheet music into the data statements. The program runs from Extended Basic. Today the pieces are used more for piano students to practice fingering (using the correct finger to play different notes so that the music is smoothly played). I suspect that the Club will not as a group find this their favorite music, but I will demonstrate the program so that you can again see the wide variety of software programs that continue to be offered. A letter accompanying the first two programs notes that they are preparing "The Nutcracker Suite" for Christmas, and that ensemble of music will be more to the taste of a wider audience.

J. Peter Hoddie, of the T199/4A SIG of the Boston Computer Society, has given us two new software packages this month. Let me mention the one which least interests me first! "Graphics Expander" is a program that permits you to enlarge a CGSD or TI Artist font - or shrink it. It loads from Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler or FUNNELWEB. The disk comes with a font on which you can practice, but any font can be used. It will also work on small instances. The program also permits you to rotate the image in 90 degree increments, and thus a font can be placed upside down. Since you can rotate type 90 degrees you can make words run vertically down the page. Thus it is obvious that you can make banners by enlarging a font and rotating them 90 degrees to run down the page. The program is very easy to use and the instructions seem to be quite complete.

#### MacFlix

Hoddie's second program was more interesting to me. I think all of us are quite familiar with the fact that different micro processors are very incompatible. Apple programs won't run on Commodore. Z80 formats are not IBM compatible. Etc. It is of course possible to buy software and hardware to try to run programs for another machine on yours. Even if they work to some degree they usually are not very satisfactory.

Since we have seen RLE pictures, we know that pictures drawn on a number of different machines can be downloaded from CompuServe and displayed on the T199/4A. MacFlix is in this tradition. It permits us to use pictures drawn on the Macintosh on our computer. The Macintosh pictures can be converted into either TI-Artist or MyArt format, and can be printed out on Epson compatible printers. I use Panasonic printers (KXPI080 and 1090) and they work fine. A picture created on a Macintosh with its MacPaint program measures 8 by 10 inches, and thus cannot be completely seen on the T199/4A screen at one time. Like a TI-Writer document, you must scroll horizontally and vertically to see the entire image. It is easy to do, but not as nice as seeing the whole picture at one time. You can see the entire picture when you print it in high resolution. The author notes that medium resolution gives the best results but will not work on some "compatibles". It doesn't work on my Panasonic. I haven't tried my TI 855 printer, which might work in medium resolution. If you print in low resolution you get the exact correct aspect ration of the picture, but you lose the right 20% of the picture! High resolution gets all of the picture, but "squeeses" it somewhat. On the next two pages I have copies some images to show the effect of the two resolutions. The first page shows a low resolution print of a drawing entitled "Transportation". It is apparent that the right side of the picture is incomplete. However, the various objects are in correct proportions. The second page of pictures is the same Macintosh picture printed in high resolution. Now the compression in the horizontal direction is quite apparent., but the entire drawing is included. It depends upon the subject matter whether it is acceptable

## President's Lament

I am sure that it is rather obvious that I am writing this note on a regular typewriter. From the general run of comments in all of the newsletters, I suppose that it is a bit of a sin to back off from the computer and use the old fashioned machine to do the job. The trouble is that I know that the typewriter will do the job and the deadline is here for getting out next week's meeting notice. I have spent the last hour in total frustration trying to get the Geneve to load MyWord. As usual the machine will not do anything. The Geneve is still a machine with lots of potential and almost no software. I could use the 99/4A and TI Writer, but even though it is a powerful piece of software, and can be made to do almost anything if you want to take the time to learn how and then the time to do it, it was written by computer mainframe people and in no way can be called user friendly. If I used TI Writer all of the time I suspect that I would have no problems, but I only use it once each six months or so and then I don't remember enough to make it worth while even trying. So that is the reason you are getting non-computer output here.

When last month's meeting was over I thought I would not have anything NEW to show and was considering bringing out some old stuff which had never been demonstrated at one of our meetings. However, the still very much alive TI 99/4A software authors have been very active and I have quite a bit of new stuff to show for the November meeting.

One of the programs will actually be something new for the Geneve! But it is not a stand alone new program, but an add-in for the only piece of software yet available for the Geneve - MyArt. I acquired MyArt at the Chicago show a year ago and outside of demonstrating it for the Club, haven't used it - because I am not great on free-hand drawing, even with the aid of a mouse. But now we have an add-on which will allow those of us without any drawing skills to play a bit with MyArt. The program was written by Cynthia Becker for Asgard Software, and is called "My-Art Coloring Book". Everyone knows that a coloring book is a book of line art for children to fill in with crayons. The My-Art Coloring Book is almost that: a series of drawings to load into the My-Art program and then fill with color or fiddle with the drawings in any way that pleases you. I think that young children will enjoy the drawings. They might have to have a little help as the artist did not close all of the areas, and if there is the slightest "leak" the color spills out into the surrounding area - often filling the entire background when this happens. But it is easy to change from the "pitcher" fill icon to the "pen" and draw in the missing line to close the hole and re-fill with the color you intended in the first place. With 256 colors to choose from you can have fun trying out various fill colors to one's content. The program comes with two disks, but unfortunately I will not be able to show the pictures on the second disk as I happened to get two copies of Disk #1 and no copy of Disk #2! I am sure that Asgard will rectify this glitch when I return the duplicate disk. The pictures come in three resolutions: High, Medium, and Low. I have no idea whether high resolution requires some adjustment in the Geneve, or I got defective files, or what, but the high resolution pictures produce mostly garbage on the screen, and the simple instructions with the program offer no clues as to what different should be done. The other files work fine. It is a shame that it took a year for someone to come up with something useful to add to the slender offerings for the machine. There are all kinds of information going around that MrArc is about to finally send out the software that was supposed to accompany the machine when we got it. I assure you that I am not holding my breath.

Harrison Software in Hyattsville, MD has a couple of games to offer (Draw Poker and Spin-To-Win - a take-off on the TV show), but seems to be more interested in rare classical music. They have gone back to the time of Bach (circa 1730) and programmed the 99/4A to imitate the Pianoforte for which Bach wrote a lot of his